

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). A dispensing device of washing agents for a household washing machine, said dispenser dispensing device having at least comprising a tank for containing a liquid washing agent and an arrangement for dispensing a dose of said liquid washing agent, said arrangement comprising:

a passage adapted to put the inside of the said tank in communication with a discharge outlet for said liquid washing agent;

a dosing chamber for said liquid washing agent in hydraulic communication with said tank and said passage, said dosing chamber being adapted for at least partially dispensing said liquid washing agent contained therein in a washing cycle of said household washing machine;

first plugging means acting on said passage and capable of taking a first position, in which the washing agent cannot reach said discharge outlet, and a second position, in which the washing agent is able to reach said discharge outlet;

first actuating means producing actuation of said first plugging means, and further comprising safety or control second plugging means operative along said passage to prevent washing agent downflow from said tank to said passagedosing chamber,

second actuating means operatively connected to said second plugging means and adapted to produce actuation of said second plugging means independently from of the position or state of said first plugging means, the first plugging means being provided for dispensing at least part of the liquid agent contained in said dosing chamber in a washing cycle of said household washing machine.

2 (currently amended). A device according to claim 1, wherein said safety second plugging means are adapted to prevent downflow of liquid washing agent from said tank to said passage dosing chamber when said first plugging means permit downflow of the washing agent to said discharge outlet, said downflow only being permitted when said first plugging means reach said second position or due to a malfunction of said first plugging means.

3 (canceled).

4 (currently amended). A device according to claim 1, wherein said safety means or second plugging means are provided along said passage upstream of said first plugging means.

5 (currently amended). A device according to claim 1, wherein said passage comprises a dosing chamber of said liquid washing agent, in hydraulic communication with said tank, said safety means or second plugging means operating are disposed between said tank and said dosing chamber.

6 (previously presented). A device according to claim 1, wherein said passage comprises a dispensing chamber of said liquid washing agent, in hydraulic communication with said dosing chamber,

said first plugging means operating between said dosing chamber and said dispensing chamber, said dispensing chamber being in hydraulic communication with said discharge outlet.

7 (currently amended). A device according to claim 6, wherein: in said first position, said first plugging means prevent downflow of liquid washing agent from said dosing chamber to said dispensing chamber and permit downflow of liquid washing agent eventually contained in said dispensing chamber to said discharge outlet;

in said second position, said first plugging means enable downflow of liquid washing agent from said dosing chamber to said dispensing chamber and prevent downflow of liquid washing agent eventually contained in said dispensing chamber to said discharge outlet.

8 (currently amended). A device according to claim 51, wherein said ~~safety means~~ or second plugging means are capable of first and second operating conditions, where:

in the first operating condition, reached when said first plugging means are in said second position, said safety means prevent downflow of liquid washing agent from said tank to said dosing chamber;

in the second operating condition, reached when said first plugging means are in said first position, said safety means permit downflow of liquid washing agent from said dosing chamber to said dispensing chamber.

9 (previously presented). A device according to claim 1, further comprising venting means for communication with the environment outside said tank and/or said dosing chamber and/or said dispensing chamber.

10 (currently amended). A device according to claim 1, wherein ~~said safety means or~~ second plugging means are capable of being completely immersed in the liquid washing agent, contained in said dosing chamber, ~~whose relevant~~ with said second actuating means are arranged~~being~~ outside said tank ~~or~~ and outside said dosing chamber.

11 (currently amended). A device according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and/or second plugging means comprises an element made from ferromagnetic material and a ~~with which~~ sealing means ~~are associated~~.

12 (canceled).

13 (currently amended). A device according to claim 11, wherein ~~said actuating means comprise comprising a sole actuator including said first and second actuating means, and that it said sole actuator being a~~ provides a sole mechanism being adapted to produce actuation of said first and second plugging means at different times.

14 (previously presented). A device according to claim 1, wherein said actuating means comprise a slow operating actuator.

15 (currently amended). A device according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second actuating means comprises a solenoid.

16 (currently amended). A device according to claim 15, wherein said first plugging means comprises the an armature reter  
~~er~~ ~~movable~~ ~~core~~ of said solenoid.

17 (previously presented). A device according to claim 11, further comprising a magnetic element associated with a component of a mechanism operated by said actuating means.

18 (currently amended). A device according to claim 13, wherein saidan magnetic element made from ferromagnetic material is associated with a component of said sole mechanism.

19 (previously presented). A device according to claim 17, wherein said component is angularly movable.

20 (previously presented). A device according to claim 19, wherein during the movement of said component the attraction force exerted by said magnetic element is capable of producing the switching of said safety means or second plugging means from said first to said second operating condition, or vice-versa.

21 (withdrawn). A device according to claim 1, further comprising a second arrangement for dispensing at least one dose of a second washing agent, in solid form or powder.

22 (withdrawn). A device according to claim 21, wherein said actuating means actuate said second arrangement, through a mechanism.

23 (withdrawn). A device according to claim 22, wherein said mechanism comprises a straight toothed element or rack, capable of moving by the action of said actuating means, and at least a gear engaged to said rack.

24 (withdrawn). A device according to claim 21, wherein said second arrangement comprises a recess containing said second washing agent, a cover for closing said recess and means for maintaining said cover in its closed position.

25 (withdrawn). A device according to claim 21, wherein said second arrangement comprises a dispenser body delimiting at least a space for containing a dose of said second washing agent, said dispenser body being rotary around a first axis.

26 (withdrawn). A device according to claim 25, wherein said dispenser body is capable of angular movement with respect to a second axis, substantially perpendicular with respect to said first axis.

27 (withdrawn). A device according to claim 25, further comprising a seat housing said dispenser body, the latter being capable of taking a first position, in which said dispenser body is inserted in said seat, and a second position, in which said dispenser body is inclined to the outside of said seat, in order to permit intake of a dose of said second washing agent in said space.

28 (withdrawn). A device according to claim 27, wherein an area of said seat is directly facing or open to the inside of the washing tub of the machine whereon the device is assembled.

29 (withdrawn). A device according to claim 28, wherein said dispenser body is capable of rotating around said first axis, in order to bring the aperture of said space substantially in line with said area for permitting discharge of the dose of said second washing agent.

30 (withdrawn). A device according to claim 1, wherein said dispenser body is sustained by a supporting element capable of angular movement.

31 (withdrawn). A device according to claim 30, wherein said supporting element has at least a fork portion, said dispenser body being assembled movable and/or inclinable with respect to said supporting element.

32 (currently amended). A dispensing device of washing agents for a household washing machine, said dispenser dispensing device having at least comprising a tank for containing a liquid washing agent and an arrangement for dispensing a dose of said washing agent, said arrangement comprising:

means forming a dosing space, being adapted to receive and contain at least a portion of the liquid washing agent contained in said tank, said portion of the liquid agent being at least partially dispensed in a washing cycle of said household washing machine;

a passage, being adapted to permit downflow of liquid washing agent from said dosing chamber space to a discharge or dispensing outlet of said liquid washing agent;

first plugging means acting on said passage and capable of taking a first position, due to at which the washing agent cannot reach said discharge outlet, and a second position, due to at which the washing agent is able to reach said discharge outlet;

at least an actuator, capable of actuating said first plugging means, and comprising safety or control means switching between first and second operating conditions, where:

in the first operating condition, reached when said first plugging means are in said second position, said safety means prevent downflow of liquid washing agent from said tank to said dosing space;

in the second operating condition, reached when said first plugging means are in said first position, said safety means permit downflow of liquid washing agent from said tank to said dosing space in order to define a washing liquid agent dose to be at least partially dispensed in a washing cycle of said household washing machine to said discharge outlet.

33 (previously presented). A device according to claim 32, wherein said first safety means are adapted to prevent downflow of liquid washing agent from said tank to said dosing space when said first plugging means permit downflow of washing agent to said discharge outlet, said downflow being permitted when said second position is reached by said first plugging means, or due to a malfunction of said first plugging means.

34 (currently amended). A method for dispensing a liquid washing agent in a household washing machine, by means of a dispenser having at least a tank for containing a liquid washing agent, the method comprising:

admission of at least a portion of the liquid washing agent from said tank to a dosing space defining a liquid washing agent

dose to be at least partially dispensed in a washing cycle of said household washing machine,

admission of a portion of the liquid washing agent from said dosing space to a dispensing space wherfrom dispensing said agent is permitted,

a subsequent dispensing through a discharge outlet, of at least a part of the liquid washing agent contained in said dosing space outside of said dispenser during a washing cycle of said household washing machine, by

where moving first plugging means can be controlled for assuming between a first position, due to which the liquid washing agent cannot reach said discharge outlet from said dispensing space, and a second position, due to which the liquid washing agent can reach said discharge outlet from said dispensing space,

wherein when said first plugging means are in said second position, downflow of liquid washing agent from said tank to said dosing space is to said dispensing space being prevented when said first plugging means are in said second position, and when said first plugging means are in said first position, downflow of liquid washing agent from said dosing space is permitted to said discharge outlet dispensing space being permitted when said first plugging means are in said first position.

35 (currently amended). A device method according to claim 34, wherein downflow of liquid washing agent from said tank to said dosing space is prevented when said first plugging means permit downflow of washing agent to said discharge outlet, independently

| of whether said downflow is permitted due to said first plugging  
means having reached said second position or due to a malfunction  
of said first plugging means.

36 (previously presented). A method according to claim 34,  
wherein:

in said first position, said first plugging means prevent  
downflow of liquid washing agent from said dosing space to a said  
dispensing space and to permit downflow of liquid washing agent  
eventually contained in said dispensing space to said discharge  
outlet;

in said second position, said first plugging means permit  
downflow of liquid washing agent from said dosing space to said  
dispensing space and prevent downflow of liquid washing agent  
eventually contained in said dispensing space to said discharge  
outlet.

37 (currently amended). A household washing machine comprising  
a dispensing device of washing agents, said dispensing device  
comprising a tank for containing a liquid washing agent and an  
arrangement for dispensing a dose of said liquid washing agent,  
said arrangement comprising:

a passage adapted to put the inside of said tank in  
communication with a discharge outlet for said liquid washing  
agent;

a dosing chamber for said liquid washing agent in hydraulic  
communication with said tank and said passage, said dosing chamber  
being adapted for at least partially dispensing said liquid washing

agent contained therein in a washing cycle of said household washing machine;

first plugging means acting on said passage and capable of taking a first position, in which the washing agent cannot reach said discharge outlet, and a second position, in which the washing agent is able to reach said discharge outlet;

first actuating means producing actuation of said first plugging means, and further comprising second plugging means operative along said passage to prevent washing agent downflow from said tank to said dosing chamber,

second actuating means operatively connected to said second plugging means and adapted to produce actuation of said second plugging means independently of the position of said first plugging means, the first plugging means being provided for dispensing at least part of the liquid agent contained in said dosing chamber in a washing cycle of said household washing machine according to claim 1.

38 (New). A dispensing device of washing agents for a household washing machine, said dispenser having at least a tank for containing a liquid washing agent and an arrangement for dispensing a dose of said liquid washing agent, said arrangement comprising:

a passage adapted to put the inside of said tank in communication with a discharge outlet for said liquid washing agent;

a dosing chamber of said liquid washing agent in hydraulic communication with said tank;

first plugging means acting on said passage and capable of taking a first position, in which the washing agent cannot reach said discharge outlet, and a second position, in which the washing agent is able to reach said discharge outlet;

actuating means producing actuation of said first plugging means,

second plugging means, operating along said passage and normally operative along said passage to prevent washing agent downflow from said tank to said dosing chamber,

a dispensing chamber of said liquid washing agent being in hydraulic communication with said dosing chamber, said first plugging means operating between said dosing chamber and said dispensing chamber, the dispensing chamber being in hydraulic communication with the discharge outlet.

39 (New). A device according to claim 38, wherein:

in said first position, said first plugging means prevent downflow of liquid washing agent from said dosing chamber to said dispensing chamber and permit downflow of liquid washing agent eventually contained in said dispensing chamber to said discharge outlet;

in said second position, said first plugging means enable downflow of liquid washing agent from said dosing chamber to said dispensing chamber and prevent downflow of liquid washing agent

eventually contained in said dispensing chamber to said discharge outlet;

40 (New). A device according to claim 38, further comprising venting means for communication with the environment outside said tank and/or said dosing chamber and/or said dispensing chamber.

41 (New). A device according to claim 38, wherein said second plugging means is adapted to be completely immersed in the liquid washing agent contained in said dosing chamber while said actuating means are outside said dosing chamber.

42 (New). A device according to claim 38, wherein at least one of said first and said second plugging means comprises an element made from ferromagnetic material with which sealing means are associated.

43 (New). A device according to claim 38, wherein said actuating means comprise a first actuator for operating said second plugging means, and a second actuator for operating said first plugging means.

44 (New). A device according to claim 38, wherein said actuating means comprise a sole actuator with a sole mechanism adapted to produce actuation of said first and second plugging means at different times.

45 (New). A device according to claim 38, wherein said actuating means comprise a slow operating actuator.

46 (New). A device according to claim 38, wherein said actuating means comprise a solenoid.

47 (New). A device according to claim 46, wherein said first plugging means comprise an armature of said solenoid.

48 (New). A device according to claim 38, further comprising a magnetic element associated with a component of a mechanism operated by said actuating means.

49 (New). A device according to claim 48, wherein said magnetic element is associated with a component of said mechanism.

50 (New). A device according to claim 48, wherein said component is angularly movable.

51 (New). A device according to claim 48, wherein during the movement of said component the attraction force exerted by said magnetic element is capable of producing movement of said second plugging means from said first position to said second position, or from said second position to said first position.

52 (New). A household washing machine comprising a dispensing device of washing agents, said dispensing device having at least a tank for containing a liquid washing agent and an arrangement for dispensing a dose of said liquid washing agent, said arrangement comprising:

a passage adapted to put the inside of said tank in communication with a discharge outlet for said liquid washing agent and comprising a dosing chamber of said liquid washing agent in hydraulic communication with said tank;

first plugging means acting on said passage and capable of taking a first position, in which the washing agent cannot reach

said discharge outlet, and a second position, in which the washing agent is able to reach said discharge outlet;

actuating means producing actuation of said first plugging means,

second plugging means, operating along said passage and normally operative along said passage to prevent washing agent downflow from said tank to said dosing chamber,

said passage further comprising a dispensing chamber of said liquid washing agent being in hydraulic communication with said dosing chamber, said first plugging means operating between said dosing chamber and said dispensing chamber, the dispensing chamber being in hydraulic communication with the discharge outlet.

53 (New). A household washing machine comprising a dispensing device of washing agents, said dispensing device comprising a tank for containing a liquid washing agent and an arrangement for dispensing a dose of said washing agent, said arrangement comprising:

a dosing space adapted to receive and contain at least a portion of the liquid washing agent contained in said tank, said portion of the liquid agent being at least partially dispensed in a washing cycle of said household washing machine;

a passage adapted to permit downflow of liquid washing agent from said dosing space to a discharge outlet of said liquid washing agent;

first plugging means acting on said passage and capable of taking a first position at which the washing agent cannot reach

said discharge outlet, and a second position, at which the washing agent is able to reach said discharge outlet;

an actuator capable of actuating said first plugging means, and comprising safety means switching between first and second operating conditions, where:

in the first operating condition, reached when said first plugging means are in said second position, said safety means prevent downflow of liquid washing agent from said tank to said dosing space;

in the second operating condition, reached when said first plugging means are in said first position, said safety means permit downflow of liquid washing agent from said tank to said dosing space in order to define a washing liquid agent dose to be at least partially dispensed in a washing cycle of said household washing machine.